



Abstract

This Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) documents the effects associated with the proposed transportation improvements along the U.S. Highway 50 (U.S. 50) Corridor. This document addresses a 150-mile-long portion of U.S. 50 through the Lower Arkansas Valley in southeastern Colorado, between Pueblo, Colorado, and the vicinity of the Colorado-Kansas state line. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT), and local governments have identified the need to improve safety and mobility on this highway.

The U.S. 50 Tier 1 EIS analyzes the project on a broad scale. The document has been prepared under the guidance of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The purpose of this document is to identify a general corridor location for improvements to U.S. 50, off and/or on the existing alignment, from I-25 in Pueblo to approximately one mile east of Holly, near the Colorado-Kansas state line. The Build Alternatives presented in this document are the results of this effort. They represent a 1,000-foot-wide corridor generally centered on the existing U.S. 50 alignment, as found between the communities located east of Pueblo. At the communities, the Build Alternatives also include realignments around the towns. These Build Alternatives were further screened to identify a preferred alternative, which identifies one of the choices around each community as the preferred alternative, except in Fowler and Swink. At these locations, two Build Alternatives are carried forward for Tier 2 analysis.

Following this Tier 1 process, Tier 2 NEPA studies would identify highway alignment alternatives within the 1,000-foot-wide corridor, which would consist of a maximum 250-foot-wide highway footprint (i.e., alignment) to accommodate a four-lane expressway. Tier 2 studies also would include additional socio-economic and environmental analysis, public involvement, and design.

Impacts of the No-Build Alternative and Build Alternatives, as well as the Preferred Alternative, on the rural and agricultural environment, natural environment, community and built environment, and other resources are identified in a broad range of categories. Mitigation strategies are identified to address impacts to these resources.

A public hearing will follow the publication of the Tier 1 DEIS. CDOT and FHWA then will prepare a combined Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)/Record of Decision (ROD) outlining the decisions made and the reasoning behind their conclusions, per Section 1319 of Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act of 2012 (MAP-21), unless conditions are present that preclude the use of a combined FEIS/ROD.



This Tier 1 DEIS is online at <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us50e> and at the following locations:

Pueblo City-County Library District

Tom L. and Anna Marie Giodone Library

24655 US 50 BUS

Pueblo, CO 81006

(719) 562-5600

Pueblo City-County Library District

Rawlings Library

100 E. Abriendo Avenue

Pueblo, CO 81004

(719) 562-5600

Fowler Public Library

400 6th Street

Fowler, CO 81039

(719) 263-4472

Manzanola Public Library

301 Catalpa Street

Manzanola, CO 81058

(719) 462-5528

Rocky Ford City Library

400 S. 10th Street

Rocky Ford, CO 81067

(719) 254-6641

Las Animas/Bent County Library

306 5th Street

Las Animas, CO 81054

(719) 456-0111

Lamar City Library

102 E. Parmenter Street

Lamar, CO 81052

(719) 336-4632

Southeast Transportation Planning Region

112 West Elm Street

Lamar, CO 81052

(719) 336-3850

Granada Town Hall

105 S. Main Street

Granada, CO 81041

(719) 734-5411

Holly Town Hall

100 Tony Garcia Drive

Holly, CO 81047

(719) 537-6622

Colorado Department of Transportation

Region 2 Pueblo Offices

905 N. Erie Avenue

Pueblo, CO 81001

(719) 562-5568

Colorado Department of Transportation

Region 2 Colorado Springs Offices

1480 Quail Lake Road

Colorado Springs, CO 80906

(719) 634-2323

Federal Highway Administration

12300 W. Dakota Ave, Ste. 180

Lakewood, CO 80228

(720) 963-3000



En Español

Para más información cerca de la carretera U.S. 50 Este, escrito en Español, por favor llame al (303) 209-2324.

Comments

Comments regarding this document will be accepted between June 13, 2016, and July 29, 2016. They may be submitted via the following avenues:

Online: <http://www.coloradodot.info/projects/us50e/get-involved>
E-mail: US50East@atkinsglobal.com
Phone: (303) 209-2324
In person: Public hearing open houses:

Monday, July 11, 2016
Las Animas Municipal Golf Course
220 Country Club Drive, Las Animas
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday, July 11, 2016
Lamar Community Building
610 S. 6th Street, Lamar
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 12, 2016
Rocky Ford Chamber of Commerce,
The Gobin Building
105 N. Main Street, Rocky Ford
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 13, 2016
Southeastern Colorado Heritage Center
201 W. B Street, Pueblo
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

U.S. mail: U.S. 50 Corridor East
c/o Atkins North America, Inc.
7604 Technology Way, Ste. 400
Denver, CO 80237

Contacts

For additional information regarding the U.S. 50 Corridor East Tier 1 EIS, please contact:

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